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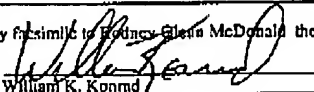
Notice of Allowance Mailed: November 25, 2005

Confirmation No. 4187

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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|-------------|---|-----------------|--------------------|
| Applicant: | Somekh et al. | Examiner: | Rodney G. McDonald |
| Serial No.: | 10/659,902 | Group Art Unit: | 1753 |
| Filed: | September 11, 2003 | Docket No.: | 006869 |
| TITLE: | END POINT DETECTION FOR SPUTTERING AND RESPUTTERING | | |

CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.8:
I hereby certify that this correspondence is being transmitted by facsimile to Rodney G. McDonald, the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office at (571)-273-8300 on February 27, 2006.


William K. Konrad

COMMENTS ON STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Examiner:

In the statement of reasons for allowance in the Notice of Allowance dated November 25, 2005, the Examiner provided various reasons for allowance. Applicants will not specifically address or respond herein to the issues/points raised by the Examiner in the Examiner's provided remarks. However, this should not necessarily be viewed as constituting acquiescence by Applicants as to the correctness of some or all of the Examiner's provided remarks.

Moreover, Applicants note that the claims are directed to various combinations of features. It is respectfully submitted that the patentability of each of the allowed and allowable claims resides in every feature of the recited combination of features of the claims in addition to any features noted by the Examiner.

The attorney of record invites the Examiner to contact her at (310) 553-7970 if needed.

Dated: February 27, 2006

By: 

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Please direct all correspondences to:

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